GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:5
ANSWERED ON:19.11.2001
IMPACT OF TERRORISM ON TOURISM INDUSTRY
JAYASHREE BANERJEE;PADAMSEN CHAUDHARY

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Tourism Industry has been affected badly due to terrorist attack in America on September 11, 2001;

(b) if so, the extent of decline of foreign tourist arrivals and the extent of loss of foreign exchange earnings as a result thereof;

(c) whether a Conference of State Tourism Ministers to discuss/draft National Tourism Policy was held recently in Delhi;

(d) if so, the details of issues discussed and the decisions arrived at the conference; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to boost tourism and attract foreign tourists to the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF TOURISM, STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI JAGMOHAN)

(a), (b), (c), (d) and (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of Sabha.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION No.+5 TO BE ANSWERED ON 19-11-2001 REGARDING IMPACT OF TERRORISM ON TOURISM INDUSTRY.

(a) and (b): Yes, Sir. There has been a decline of about 20 per cent in the foreign tourist arrivals and 16 per cent in the foreign exchange earnings through tourism in the two months of September and October, 2001 as compared to the same period of the year 2000.

(c) and (d): Yes, Sir. The Conference of Chief Ministers and Tourism Ministers was convenedto discuss and obtain the views of the State/U.T. Governments on draft National Tourism Policy, restructuring the Central financial assistance guidelines, uniformity and rationalisation of State Government taxes on tourism units, providing a constitutional status to tourism and product development and marketing.

(e): Various steps taken by the Government to boost tourism and attract foreign tourists to India include development and improvement of tourist facilities, publicity and marketing efforts in the foreign countries through overseas tourist offices, strengthening institutions of human resources development, use of information technology and encouraging private investment in tourism sector including hotels.

Efforts have also been made to send appropriate signals to countries all over the world that India is a safe destination. A reorientation in marketing efforts is also being made by focussing on markets in South East Asia and emphasising the significance of domestic tourism.